

Application No.: 09/996357

Docket No.: PPI-105

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a therapeutic agent comprising the formula I-L-P², wherein I is an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region or fragment thereof that retains the ability to bind an Fc receptor; L is a linker group or a direct bond; and P² is a peptide capable of binding a target protein β -amyloid protein, the method comprising:

(1) screening a peptide library to identify one or more peptides which bind to a target protein β -amyloid protein;

(2) determining the amino acid sequence of at least one peptide which binds to a target protein β -amyloid protein; and

(3) producing a therapeutic agent comprising a peptide having the amino acid sequence identified in step (2), an immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region or fragment thereof that retains the ability to bind an Fc receptor, and a linker group or a direct bond.

75. (Original) The method of claim 74, wherein the peptide library comprises L-amino acid peptides.

76. (Original) The method of claim 74, wherein the peptide library comprises D-amino acid peptides.

77-85. (Cancelled)

86. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 84, wherein said target protein is a protein that is associated with a disease state.

87-93. (Cancelled)

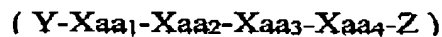
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94. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 74, wherein P is a fragment of β -AP that is capable of binding an amyloidogenic protein.

95. **(Withdrawn, Currently Amended)** The method of claim 94, wherein said fragment of β -AP is selected from the group consisting of $A\beta_{16-30}$, $A\beta_{17-20}$, $A\beta_{17-21}$, $A\beta_{16-25}$, and $A\beta_{1-25}$, $A\beta_{1-40}$, and $A\beta_{1-42}$.

96. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 74, wherein P is a peptide comprising the structure



wherein Xaa_1 , Xaa_2 , Xaa_3 and Xaa_4 are each D-amino acid structures and at least two of Xaa_1 , Xaa_2 , Xaa_3 and Xaa_4 are, independently, selected from the group consisting of a D-leucine structure, a D-phenylalanine structure and a D-valine structure;

Y, which may or may not be present, is a structure having the formula $(Xaa)_a$, wherein Xaa is any D-amino acid structure and a is an integer from 1 to 15; and

Z, which may or may not be present, is a structure having the formula $(Xaa)_b$, wherein Xaa is any D-amino acid structure and b is an integer from 1 to 15.

97. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 74, wherein P is a peptide selected from the group consisting of: D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-Phe, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-phenethylamide, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Tyr-D-Phe, D-Leu-D-Val-D-IodoTyr-D-Phe, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-Tyr, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-IodoTyr, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-Ala, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Ala, D-Ala-D-Val-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Leu, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Tyr-D-Phe-D-Ala, D-Leu-D-Val-D-IodoTyr-D-Phe-D-Ala, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-Tyr-D-Ala, D-Leu-D-Val-D-Phe-D-IodoTyr-D-Ala, D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Val-D-Leu, D-Ala-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Val-D-Leu, D-Ala-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Leu-D-Leu, D-Leu-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Val-D-Leu, D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Val-D-Leu, D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Leu-D-Val, D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Leu, D-Ala-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Phe-D-Leu, $A\beta_{(16-30)}$, $A\beta_{(10-25)}$, $A\beta_{(1-29)}$, $A\beta_{(1-40)}$, and $A\beta_{(1-42)}$.

98. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 74, wherein said therapeutic agent is $A\beta_{(16-30)}$ -hFc.

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99. (New) A method of preparing A β (16-30)-hFc comprising linking A β (16-30) to an antibody heavy chain constant region.

100. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein said I is selected from the group consisting of IgG, IgA, IgM, IgD and IgE, or a fragment thereof